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Eliza Newlin Carney is a longtime Washington writer, editor and columnist specializing in democracy issues. She is a columnist and former senior editor for *The American Prospect*, and previously held senior positions at *CQ Roll Call* and *National Journal*. [The Civic Circle](#) grows out of Carney's passion for democracy, and for cultural and civic life in Silver Spring, where she has lived for more than two decades. She is the Civic Circle's Founder and President.